VALIANT
PRESENTS
TUROK
DINOSAUR HUNTER
JUN NO.24
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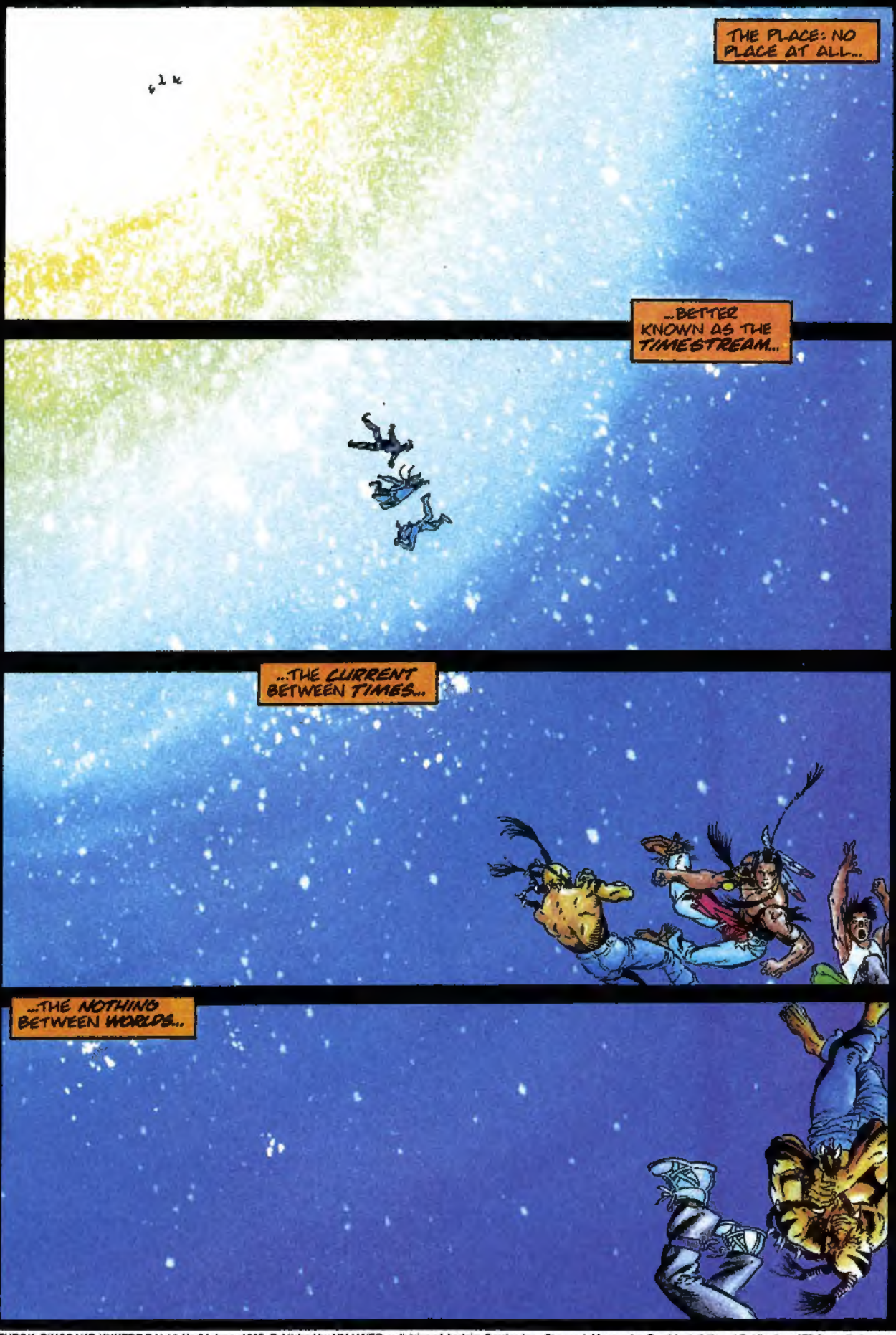
RETURN TO THE LOST LAND!
DEEM



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Lost in time, a 19th century Kiowa brave finds himself in today's world -- along with scores of vicious, technologically-enhanced dinosaurs. There is no choice...the warrior must now become --

TUROK
DINOSAUR HUNTER

THE PRODIGAL
PART I: INTERMISSION

...THE GATEWAY PAST THE VOID!
(...SPIDER SPIRIT, GREAT FATHER AND MOTHER OF ALL, GUIDE THIS POOR FAITHLESS ONE UPON THIS JOURNEY THROUGH YOUR HEART...)
T-T-TUROK...!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

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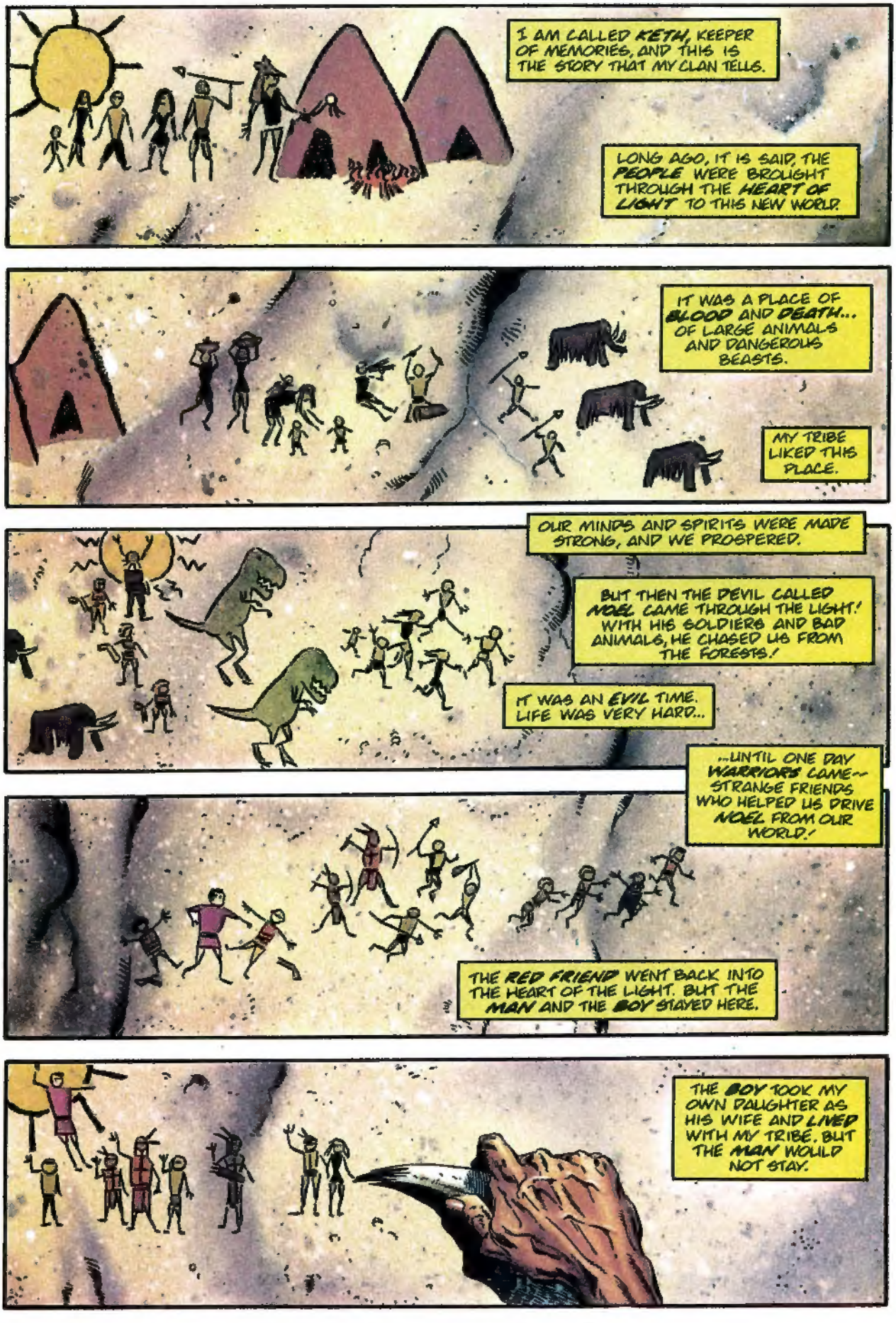
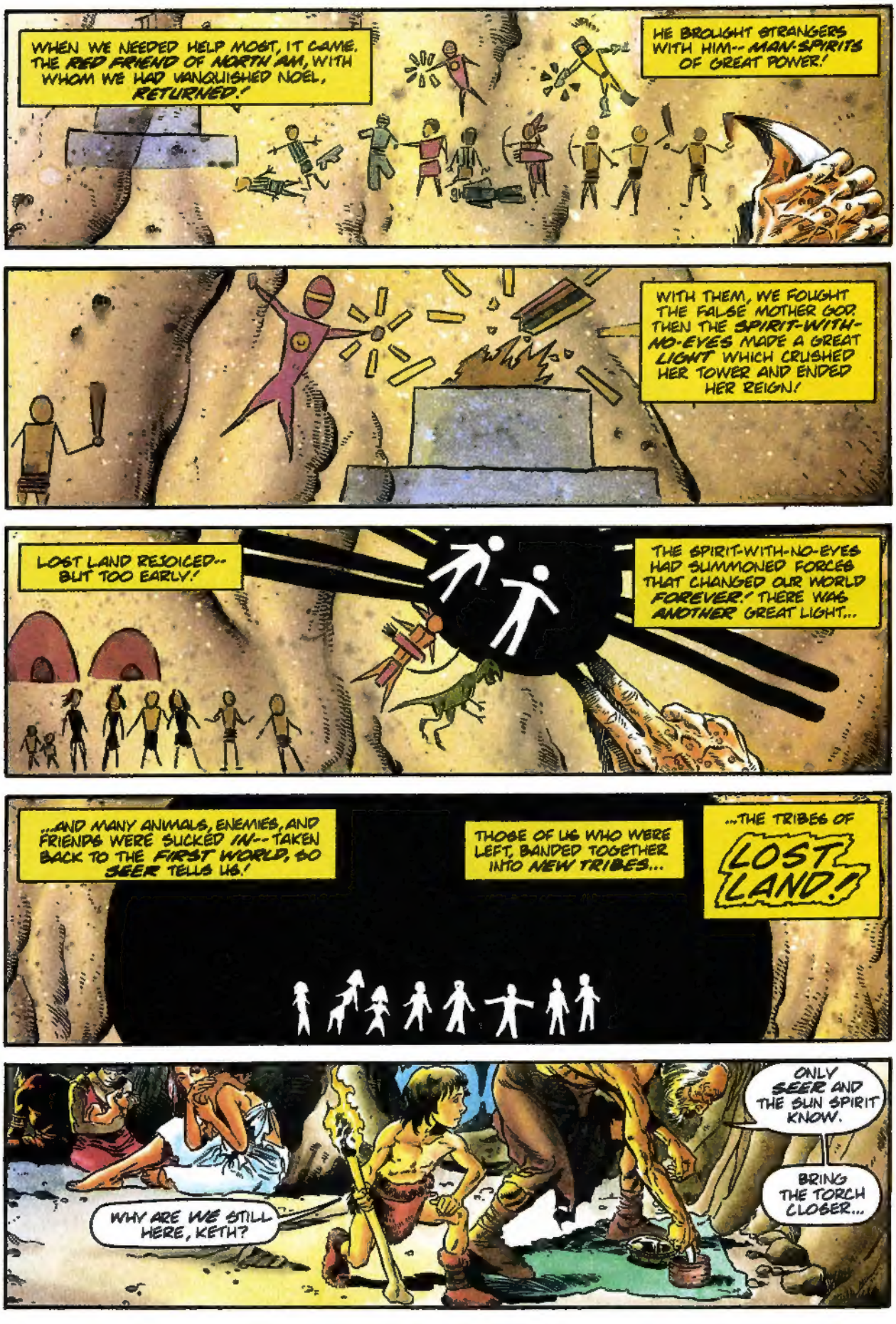
SHHH... QUIET, ANDY! TRY TO CALM YOUR HEART... YOUR MIND!
I KNOW THIS PLACE. I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE.
<...AND THOUGH THIS WARRIOR DOESN'T ASK TO BE SAVED FROM HIS FATE, PLEASE FIND MY POOR WORDS WORTHY OF YOUR EARS AND MIND...>
TELL THAT CAVEMAN TO SHUT UP, TUROK! WHAT'S THAT STUFF HE'S BABBLING?
<...I ASK ONLY THAT YOU LOOK UPON ME, GUIDE ME, AND FIND ME STRONG!>
HE'S PRAYING, ANDY.
P-PRAYING?
YES. WE'RE GOING ON A JOURNEY.
A JOURNEY?
y-y-yeah...

YOU RECOGNIZE THIS, TUROK? YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE?
YES. IT IS THE BIG LIGHT. THE WAY BETWEEN THE WORLDS.
I, TOO, HAVE BEEN HERE, WITH MY PEOPLE.
DO YOU THINK WE'RE GOING HOME?
HOME?
WE'LL SEE, CHIEF OF THE SPIDER PEOPLE.
WE'LL SEE...


I AM CALLED KETH, KEEPER OF MEMORIES, AND THIS IS THE STORY THAT MY CLAN TELLS.
LONG AGO, IT IS SAID, THE PEOPLE WERE BROUGHT THROUGH THE HEART OF LIGHT TO THIS NEW WORLD.
IT WAS A PLACE OF BLOOD AND DEATH... OF LARGE ANIMALS AND DANGEROUS BEASTS.
MY TRIBE LIKED THIS PLACE.
OUR MINDS AND SPIRITS WERE MADE STRONG, AND WE PROSPERED.
BUT THEN THE DEVIL CALLED NOEL CAME THROUGH THE LIGHT! WITH HIS SOLDIERS AND BAD ANIMALS, HE CHASED US FROM THE FORESTS!
IT WAS AN EVIL TIME. LIFE WAS VERY HARD...
...UNTIL ONE DAY WARRIORS CAME-- STRANGE FRIENDS WHO HELPED US DRIVE NOEL FROM OUR WORLD!
THE RED FRIEND WENT BACK INTO THE HEART OF THE LIGHT. BUT THE MAN AND THE BOY STAYED HERE.
THE BOY TOOK MY OWN DAUGHTER AS HIS WIFE AND LIVED WITH MY TRIBE. BUT THE MAN WOULD NOT STAY.

WE DID NOT SEE HIM AGAIN FOR A LONG TIME.
ONE DAY, ANOTHER ENEMY CAME!
SHE CALLED HERSELF OUR MOTHER GOD, AND TOLD US IT WAS SHE WHO HAD CALLED THE TRIBES AND ANIMALS TO THIS LOST LAND!
WITH HER CAME HER DEVIL SOLDIERS--AND MAGICIANS WHO BENT THE PREDATORS OF THE FOREST TO THEIR MURDEROUS WILL!
THE FALSE MOTHER GOD WAS THE WORST ENEMY OF ALL! KNOW THAT IT IS THE SHADOW OF HER EVIL THAT STILL TOUCHES US TODAY!

HEAR ME, CHILDREN.! BURN INTO YOUR MINDS THE IMAGES I MAKE, AND THE MEMORIES I TELL.!
I WAS ALIVE TO SEE THESE THINGS!
THE FALSE MOTHER GOD AND HER BEASTS ENSLAVED MANY TRIBES, FORCING THEM TO BUILD TOWERS THAT REACHED TO THE SUN.!
SOME WERE DAZZLED BY HER MAGIC AND HER STRANGENESS.
EVEN SOME WHOM WE KNEW AS FRIENDS WERE BEWITCHED INTO JOINING HER.!
THESE WERE THE WORST DAYS OF OUR TRIBE, MY CHILDREN.
THE TREACHERY OF FRIENDS IS THE SADDEST TREACHERY OF ALL.
IN TIME, EVEN THEY SAW THROUGH HER EVIL AND LEFT HER SERVICE. BUT THEIR BETRAYAL OF LOST LAND WILL NEVER BE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN!


WHEN WE NEEDED HELP MOST, IT CAME. THE RED FRIEND OF NORTH AM, WITH WHOM WE HAD VANQUISHED NOEL, RETURNED!
HE BROUGHT STRANGERS WITH HIM--MAN-SPIRITS OF GREAT POWER!
WITH THEM, WE FOUGHT THE FALSE MOTHER GOD. THEN THE SPIRIT-WITH-NO-EYES MADE A GREAT LIGHT WHICH CRUSHED HER TOWER AND ENDED HER REIGN!
LOST LAND REJOICED--BUT TOO EARLY!
THE SPIRIT-WITH-NO-EYES HAD SUMMONED FORCES THAT CHANGED OUR WORLD FOREVER! THERE WAS ANOTHER GREAT LIGHT...
...AND MANY ANIMALS, ENEMIES, AND FRIENDS WERE SUCKED IN--TAKEN BACK TO THE FIRST WORLD, SO SEER TELLS US!
THOSE OF US WHO WERE LEFT, BANDED TOGETHER INTO NEW TRIBES...
...THE TRIBES OF LOST LAND!
WHY ARE WE STILL HERE, KETH?
ONLY SEER AND THE SUN SPIRIT KNOW.
BRING THE TORCH CLOSER...

WORK, WORK, WORK!
PUT DOWN THAT OCHRE AND HOLD YOUR GRANDSON!
ACH! YOU ONLY GIVE HIM TO ME WHEN HE NEEDS CHANGING, MARI!
THIS IS NO WORK FOR A GREAT WARRIOR, LITTLE NI-ZAK. WHY, IN THE OLD DAYS, I--
--huh...?!
AROOOOOOOO
TAKE THE BABY, MARI!
ALARM! ALARM AT THE NORTH WALL!
GRAB YOUR WEAPONS! GO! GO!
PROTECT THE CHILDREN, MARI! I'M GOING OUTSIDE!

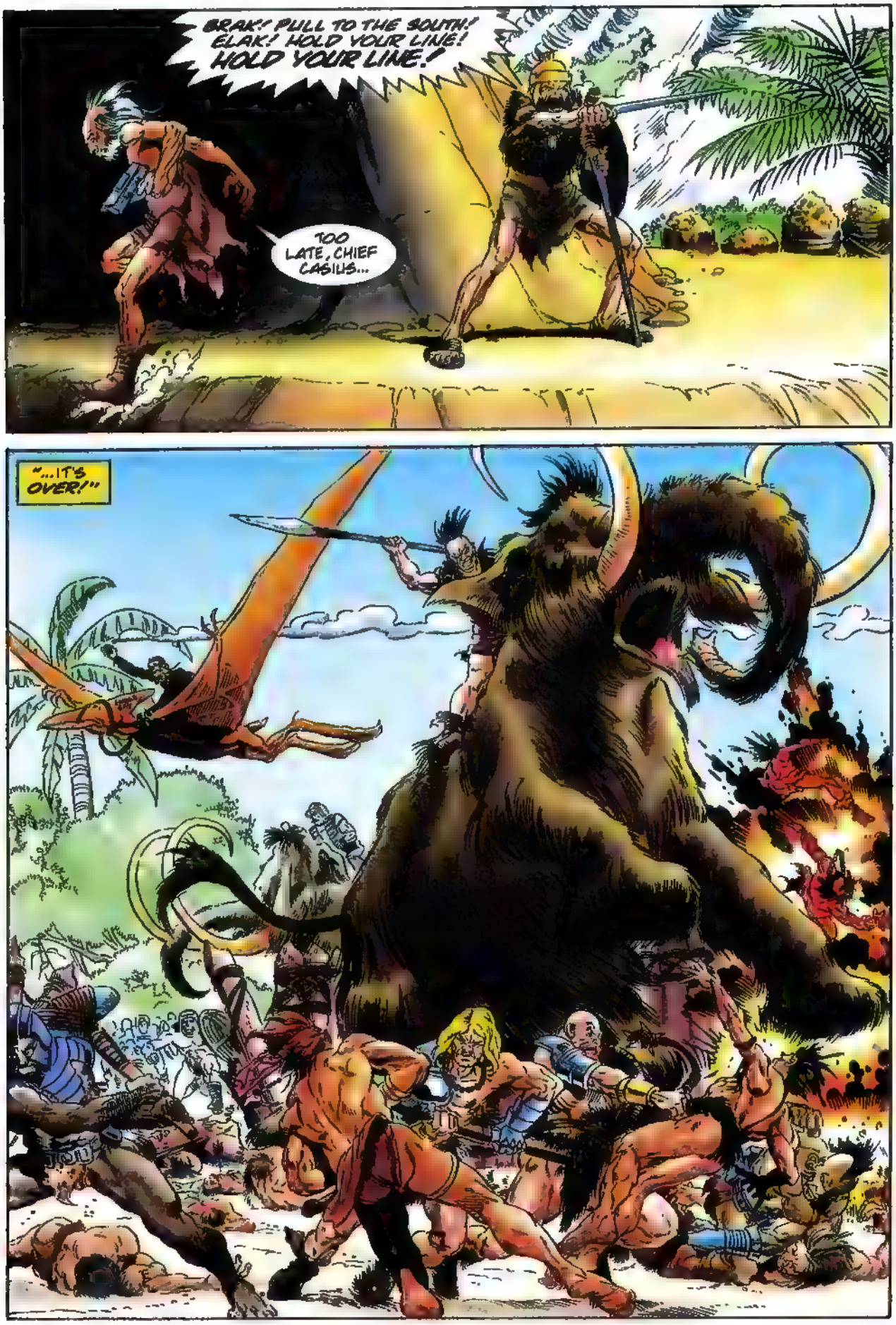
WHAT IS IT, CHIEF CASIUS?
THE SCOUTS HAVE RETURNED, KETH.
MANY WARRIORS ARE COMING.
WARRIORS? WHERE?
THERE-- THROUGH THE NORTHEAST TREELINE.
I SEE NOTHING! MAYBE THE SCOUTS WERE WRONG?
NO, KETH...
...WE KNEW THIS DAY WAS COMING. THE CAMPAIGNER HAS FOUND US!

THERE
THEY'RE HERE.
KREE-GYAAAHH!
FOR THE CAMPAIGNER--AND UNITY!

EVERY MAN TO THE NORTHEAST WALL! NOW!
T-CHAK
T-CHAK
I SEE SOME OF ORG'S PEOPLE WITH THE RAIDERS!
YES. IT'S WORSE THAN I FEARED! CAMPAIGNER'S ARMY HAS GROWN!
"EVERY DAY, MORE OF THE TRIBES JOIN HIM."
SH
EY
NO MATTER! WE WILL NOT ALLY OURSELVES WITH THOSE CUTTHROATS - NOT SO LONG AS THESE WALLS HOLD!
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT SOUND TO THE SOUTH..?

FRIEND CASILUS-- I THINK WE'RE IN TROUBLE
huh...?
SKREEEEEE!
GHOST OF TROS! AIR-RIDERS!
KOTHAR! BRAK! PULL YOUR ARCHERS!
YEE-HAWWW!
TIME FOR A FLY-OVER, BOYS! HIT 'M FROM BEHIND!
SKREE!

ALL RIGHT, BOMBARDIERS-- FIND YER TARGETS!
ON MY COMMAND. LIGHT FUSES...
...READY..
FSSSSSSSSS
...BOMBS AWAY!


BRAK! PULL TO THE SOUTH!
ELAK! HOLD YOUR LINE!
HOLD YOUR LINE!
TOO LATE, CHIEF CASILUS...
"...IT'S OVER!"

MARI.! NI-ZAK! COME! WE MUST ESCAPE!
HALT.! IN THE NAME OF THE CAMPAIGNER.!
T-CHAK!
KROOOM
GET THIS ANIMAL OUT OF THE WAY!
QUICKLY.! SOME ARE ESCAPING!

"BAH." LET THEM GO..."
"...THERE'S WORK TO BE DONE!"
DID ANYONE ELSE GET AWAY, FATHER?
I SAW CASILIS FALL, MARI. BRAK... ELMORE... EASLEY... ALL ARE GONE.
A-AND... THE CHILDREN?
"YES, MARI... THE CHILDREN, TOO."

THE MASTER IS COMING!
HAIL THE CAMPAIGNER!
HAIL THE CAMPAIGNER!
HAIL THE CAMPAIGNER!
UNIFIER OF TRIBES! OVERLORD OF LOST LAND!

YES...
HAIL, CAMPAIGNER!
WE HAVE DONE WELL, MY WARRIORS!
LET THE STENCH OF THESE SMOLDERING CARCASSES SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO THOSE WHO WOULD NOT MARCH WITH US!
SOON, ALL THE SCATTERED TRIBES OF LOST LAND WILL BE JOINED IN THE GREAT UNIFICATION!
IT IS AS MOTHERGOD WILLS! IT IS WHY SHE LEFT ME HERE!
HAH! AND WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW OF MOTHERGOD'S WILL, WAR-MAKER?
SEER!
Know this, thou pitiless creation: I have watched thee grind down this land and its screaming, shattered people!
I have seen thy wars-- and I have seen thy folly!
BEWARE, O Conqueror, lest thou become the FLUX in a broiling core of forces that thou couldst never HOPE to UNDERSTAND!

BAH!
I AM THE CAMPAIGNER, WIZARD! THROUGH ME, THIS LAND SHALL BE MADE WHOLE AGAIN!
WHOLE? It was NEVER whole!
It is pieces of TIME--drawn together by Motheryod's MADNESS! The quilt can be joined--but no threads can hold it TOGETHER!
Realize this, Campaigner--before it's TOO LATE!
HE'S GONE!
DO NOT LET HIS WORDS TROUBLE YOU, MY WARRIORS!
THERE ARE SOME MYSTERIES THAT EVEN SEER DOES NOT KNOW!
MARCH NOW!
"BACK TO THE TOWER!"
I--I GROW TIRED, FATHER! NI-ZAK MUST BE FED!

STOP! WE CAN'T STOP NOW, WOMAN!
OUR PEOPLE ARE DEAD! OUR VILLAGE, DESTROYED! EVERYTHING WE WORKED FOR, GONE!
I HAD HOPED THAT LITTLE NI-ZAK WOULD KNOW A BOYHOOD AS I KNEW IT-- ONE FILLED WITH HUNTING AND ART, NOT DEATH AND WAR!
SPIRITS OF THE FOREST-- LOOK UPON THIS CHILD! ONCE, I, HIS PATRON, PLEDGED HIS SOUL TO YOU!
GRANT HIS LIFE PEACE!
SEND US...
...A SAVIOR?

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NEXT:
FRIENDS & ENEMIES -- IN THE BATTLE FOR THE **LOST LAND!**